

## CHAPTER 258

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**EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS**


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**HOUSE BILL 20-1312**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Michaelson Jenet and Titone, Duran, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Jaquez Lewis, Kipp, McLachlan, Mullica, Snyder, Valdez A., Valdez D., Young;  
also SENATOR(S) Todd and Hisey, Bridges, Danielson, Fenberg, Fields, Ginal, Gonzales, Lee, Moreno, Pettersen, Story, Winter, Garcia.

**AN ACT****CONCERNING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATOR LICENSURE.**

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-110, **amend as amended by House Bill 20-1128** (3)(b) introductory portion, (3)(b)(I), (3)(b.5), and (3)(c)(XI); **amend as added by House Bill 20-1128** (3)(b.7)(I); and **add** (3)(f) as follows:

**22-60.5-110. Renewal of licenses.** (3) (b) A professional licensee shall complete such ongoing professional development within the period of time for which such professional license is valid. Such professional development may include but need not be limited to in-service education programs, including ~~programs concerning juvenile mental health issues and the awareness and prevention of youth suicide;~~ training in preventing, identifying, and responding to child sexual abuse and assault; BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING THAT IS CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND TRAUMA-AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED; and laws and practices relating to the education of students with disabilities in the classroom, including but not limited to child find and inclusive learning environments; college or university credit from an accepted institution of higher education or a community, technical, or local district college; educational travel that meets the requirements specified in subsection (3)(d) of this section; involvement in school reform; service as a mentor teacher for teacher candidates participating in clinical practice, as defined in section 23-78-103; internships; and ongoing professional development training and experiences. The state board of education, by rule, may establish minimum criteria for professional development; except that such criteria shall not:

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

(I) Specify any particular type of professional development activity as a requirement or partial requirement for license renewal, except as provided in subsection (3)(b.7) OR (3)(f) of this section;

(b.5) In adopting minimum criteria for professional development activities, the state board, by rule, may require all or a portion of the professional development activities to be related to increasing the license holder's competence in his or her existing or potential endorsement area; increasing the professional licensee's skills and competence in delivery of instruction in his or her existing or potential endorsement area; the teaching of literacy; INCREASING AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONCERNS, RESPONSES, AND STRATEGIES; or increasing awareness of laws and practices relating to educating students with disabilities in the classroom, including but not limited to child find and inclusive learning environments.

(b.7) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3)(f) OF THIS SECTION FOR RENEWAL OF A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER LICENSE, IN SELECTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR RENEWAL OF A ~~professional teacher~~, special services, principal, or administrator license, in addition to the other requirements set forth in this section, the ~~professional~~ SPECIAL SERVICES, PRINCIPAL, OR ADMINISTRATOR licensee shall complete A MINIMUM OF ~~ten of the clock~~ HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS required during the term of any ~~professional~~ SPECIAL SERVICES, PRINCIPAL, OR ADMINISTRATOR license in professional development activities relating to increasing awareness of laws and practices relating to educating students with disabilities in the classroom, including but not limited to child find and inclusive learning environments.

(c) In selecting professional development activities for the renewal of a professional license pursuant to this section, each licensee shall choose those activities that will aid the licensee in meeting the standards for a professional educator, including but not limited to the following goals:

(XI) Awareness of warning signs of dangerous behavior in youth and situations that present a threat to the health and safety of students and knowledge of the community resources available to enhance the health and safety of students and the school community, YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH, SAFE DE-ESCALATION OF CRISIS SITUATIONS, RECOGNITION OF SIGNS OF POOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE, AND SUPPORT OF STUDENTS. TRAINING PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3)(c)(XI) MUST BE PROVIDED USING CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND TRAUMA- AND EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES; and

(f) (I) IN SELECTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR RENEWAL OF A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER LICENSE ONLY, IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION, EXCEPT FOR THOSE SET FORTH FOR SPECIAL SERVICES, PRINCIPAL, OR ADMINISTRATOR LICENSES IN SUBSECTION (3)(b.7) OF THIS SECTION, THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHER LICENSEE SHALL COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF TEN CLOCK HOURS OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS REQUIRED DURING THE TERM OF ANY PROFESSIONAL LICENSE IN TRAINING RELATING TO:

(A) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING THAT IS CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND

TRAUMA- AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED; AND

(B) INCREASING AWARENESS OF LAWS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

(II) THE TEN CLOCK HOURS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE OBTAINED THROUGH ANY COMBINATION OF COURSES RELATED TO SUBSECTION (3)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION, SO LONG AS AT LEAST ONE OF THE REQUIRED CLOCK HOURS IS RELATED TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING THAT IS CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND TRAUMA- AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED AND ONE OF THE REQUIRED CLOCK HOURS IS RELATED TO INCREASING AWARENESS OF LAWS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

(III) A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER LICENSEE WHO HAS LESS THAN THREE YEARS LEFT IN THE LICENSE RENEWAL PERIOD ON JUNE 30, 2020, HAS UNTIL THE END OF THE NEXT APPLICABLE RENEWAL PERIOD TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (3)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION AND MAY SUBMIT CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES COMPLETED WITHIN FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO JUNE 30, 2020, TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (3)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION.

(IV) NOTHING IN SUBSECTION (3)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION PROHIBITS A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER LICENSEE FROM APPLYING A SINGLE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE OR ACTIVITY TO ONE OR MORE CONTENT OR HOURLY REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION OR BY RULE OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

(V) THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION MAY INCLUDE PROGRAMS SUCH AS:

(A) MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID SPECIFIC TO YOUTH AND TEENS;

(B) STAFF DEVELOPMENT TRAINING MODULES CONCERNING HOW TO PREVENT TEEN SUICIDE;

(C) INTERCONNECTED SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK FOR POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS AND MENTAL HEALTH;

(D) TRAINING APPROVED OR PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WHERE THE TEACHER IS EMPLOYED;

(E) TRAINING CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIORAL CONCERNS OR DISABILITIES;

(F) TRAINING MODULES CONCERNING CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS; AND

(G) ANY OTHER PROGRAM OR TRAINING THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION (3)(f).

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-121, **add** (2)(d.5) as follows:

**23-1-121. Commission directive - approval of educator preparation programs - review.** (2) The commission shall adopt policies establishing the requirements for educator preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education. The department shall work in cooperation with the state board of education in developing the requirements for educator preparation programs. At a minimum, the requirements must ensure that each educator preparation program complies with section 23-1-125, is designed on a performance-based model, and includes:

(d.5) A REQUIREMENT THAT EACH TEACHER CANDIDATE IN AN INITIAL LICENSURE PROGRAM COMPLETE AT LEAST ONE SEMESTER OR QUARTER-LENGTH COURSE IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING USING CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND TRAUMA- AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES;

**SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Approved: July 8, 2020